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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF
OUTER SPACE
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Twenty-ninth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA WITH ANNOTATIONS*

Twenty-ninth session, to be convened at United Nations Headquarters, on Monday, 24 February 1992, at 10.30 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Statement by the Chairman (followed by a commemorative meeting on International Space Year).

3. General exchange of views.

4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system.

5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries.

7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space.

8. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space.

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* Items 4 to 6 should be given priority in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 46/45 of 9 December 1991.

9. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries.

10. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine.

11. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme.

12. Matters relating to planetary exploration.

13. Matters relating to astronomy.

14. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year".

15. Other matters.

16. Report to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

ANNOTATIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3. Adoption of the agenda

Statement by the Chairman

General exchange of views

1. Following the adoption of the agenda by the Subcommittee, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Subcommittee which have taken place since its twenty-eighth session. After the Chairman's statement, the Subcommittee will organize a schedule of work (the provisional schedule of work is contained in the annex to the present agenda).

2. In accordance with paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 46/45 of 9 December 1991, by which the Assembly recommended that in 1992 the Subcommittee should dedicate at least one meeting of its regular session to International Space Year (ISY), the Subcommittee will then hold a commemorative ISY meeting, for which a programme will be issued in due course (see annex, note a).

3. The general exchange of views will start at the afternoon meeting.

Item 4. United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

4. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45 endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

(a) Report of the Expert on Space Applications

5. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the United Nations Programme on Space Applications for 1990-1992 are set out in paragraphs 23 to 37 of its report (A/AC.105/483). The views of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the report of the Subcommittee on this item are reflected in paragraphs 35 to 45 of the report of the Committee. 1/ The General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the Programme for 1992, as proposed to the Committee by the Expert (see A/AC.105/478, sects. I and III), and urged all States to make voluntary contributions to the Programme in order to enhance its effectiveness.

6. The Subcommittee will have before it the report of the Expert covering the implementation of the Programme on Space Applications during 1991 and 1992, as well as the activities proposed for 1993 (A/AC.105/497). The Expert will also report on arrangements made by the Secretariat with other organs, bodies and organizations of the United Nations system to use available resources and secure additional financial support for the Programme, as requested in paragraph 4 (e) of the report of the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/AC.105/483, annex II).

7. In addition, the Subcommittee will have before it an update on the Centres for Space Science and Technology Education, contained in document A/AC.105/498, as well as reports on the following training courses, seminars and workshops: the United Nations/European Space Agency (ESA) Workshop on Basic Space Science, organized in cooperation with the Government of India and hosted by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), from 30 April to 3 May (A/AC.105/489); the United Nations/Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)/ESA Workshop on Microwave Technology, organized in cooperation with the Government of Spain and hosted by the National Institute for Aerospace Technology (INTA) - Maspalomas Station, from 10 to 14 June (A/AC.105/493); the United Nations International Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications for Environmental Assessment and Monitoring, held in cooperation with the Government of the United States of America at the EROS Data Centre in Sious Falls, South Dakota, United States, from 9 September to 4 October (A/AC.105/499); the United Nations Workshop on the Application of Space Techniques to Combat Natural Disasters, co-sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), organized in cooperation with the Government of China and held at Beijing from 23 to 27 September (A/AC.105/494); the United Nations/International Astronautical Federation (IAF)/Canada Workshop on Space Technologies for Development, held at Montreal,

Canada, from 2 to 5 October (A/AC.105/501); the Third United Nations Training Course on Remote Sensing Applications to Geological Sciences, organized in cooperation with the Government of Germany and hosted by the Central Institute for Physics of the Earth, Potsdam, Germany, from 7 to 25 October (A/AC.105/495); and the United Nations/World Meteorological Organization (WMO)/ESA Training Course on the Use of Visible Infrared and Radar Sensor Systems in Hydrological and Agrometeorological Applications, hosted by the Comisión Nacional de Investigación y Desarollo Aeroespacial (CONIDA) in cooperation with the Government of Peru, at Lima, from 7 to 25 October (A/AC.105/496).

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on coordination of space activities within the United Nations system

8. The thirteenth Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was held at Geneva from 18 to 20 September 1991. The report of that meeting was issued in document ACC/1991/PG.12. The report on coordination is contained in the document entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programmes of work for 1992 and 1993 and future years" (A/AC.105/491).

Item 5. Implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

9. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

10. The views of the Subcommittee regarding the item were provided in paragraphs 18 to 45 of its report (A/AC.105/483). The views of the Committee on the report of the Subcommittee on the item are contained in paragraphs 27 to 51 of the Committee's report. 1/

11. In connection with the item, attention is also drawn to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82) (A/46/389) and to the report of the Expert on Space Applications concerning the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (A/AC.105/497).

12. The General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Working Group of the Whole to Evaluate the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be reconvened by the Subcommittee at its current session.

13. The General Assembly, in paragraph 10 of resolution 46/45, also endorsed the recommendations of the Working Group of the Whole as endorsed by the Committee and as contained in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/483, annex II). The Subcommittee will have before it

a number of documents prepared in response to these recommendations. Document A/AC.105/505 will contain information on national and international space activities submitted by Member States, including information on space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, information on the resources and technological capabilities of States for the promotion of cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and information on the capabilities of States in the areas of education, training, research and fellowship opportunities, in response to the requests in paragraphs 4 (b) and 4 (h). A number of reports from international organizations with space-related activities will be before the Subcommittee, including information concerning space activities that were or could be the subject of greater international cooperation, in response to the request in paragraph 4 (c). Information on the arrangements made with other bodies of the United Nations system and other organizations in order to fully utilize available resources and secure additional financial support for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, in response to the request in paragraph 4 (e), will be included in the report of the Expert on Space Applications (A/AC.105/497). A number of technical studies of the potential space technology for various applications, as requested in paragraph 6, will also be before the Subcommittee.

14. In paragraph 5 of its report, the Working Group, noting that International Space Year would take place in 1992 and that it coincided with the tenth anniversary of the holdling of the UNISPACE 82 Conference, decided to make, at the current session, a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE 82. The Working Group thus requested the Secretariat to prepare a background paper (A/AC.105/504) to assist it in this regard, taking into account previous reports already prepared by the Secretariat.

15. In considering agenda item 5, the Subcommittee should note that, in paragraph 8 of resolution 46/45, the General Assembly stated that:

> "It is particularly urgent to implement the following recommendations:
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> "(a) All countries should have the opportunity to use the techniques resulting from medical studies in space;
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> "(b) Data banks at the national and regional levels should be strengthened and expanded and an international space information service should be established to function as a centre of coordination;
>
> "(c) The United Nations should support the creation of adequate training centres at the regional level, linked, whenever possible, to institutions implementing space programmes; necessary funding for the development of such centres should be made available through financial institutions;
>
> "(d) The United Nations should organize a fellowship programme through which selected graduates or postgraduates from developing

countries should get in-depth, long-term exposure to space technology or applications; it is also desirable to encourage the availability of opportunities for such exposure on other bilateral and multilateral bases outside the United Nations system".

Item 6. Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites including, inter alia, applications for developing countries

16. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item on a priority basis.

Item 7. Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

17. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

18. By paragraph 11 of resolution 46/45, the General Assembly also decided that the Subcommittee should reconvene its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space at its current session (see annex for the provisional schedule of work for the Working Group).

Item 8. Questions relating to space transportation systems and their implications for future activities in space

19. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 9. Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit; examination of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to space communications developments, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

20. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 10. Matters relating to life sciences, including space medicine

21. In response to a recommendation of the Subcommittee, as contained in paragraph 80 of its report (A/AC.105/483), the Subcommittee will have before it at the current session a study of medical technology that has resulted from research in space, based on information compiled from existing sources and information submitted by Member States, and of the ways and means to implement the General Assembly recommendation on this matter, as contained in paragraph 8 of resolution 45/72 (A/AC.105/500).

22. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 11. Progress in national and international space activities related to the Earth environment, in particular progress in the geosphere-biosphere (global change) programme

23. In connection with the proposal for a space system for monitoring the seismic activity of the Earth and for short-term earthquake prediction based on ionospheric and magnetospheric measurements (A/AC.105/483, para. 87), the Subcommittee invited Member States to provide information on the subject at its current session.

24. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue, at its current session, consideration of this item.

Item 12. Matters relating to planetary exploration

25. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 13. Matters relating to astronomy

26. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee should continue the consideration of this item at its current session.

Item 14. The theme fixed for special attention at the 1992 session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee: "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year"

27. The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of resolution 46/45, endorsed the recommendation of the Subcommittee, which had been endorsed by the Committee, that the theme fixed for the special attention of the Subcommittee at its current session should be "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year".

28. In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee on Outer Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), in liaison with Member States, have been invited to arrange a symposium on this theme, with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the session, at the end of the meeting of the Subcommittee, to complement its discussions (see note b of the annex to the present provisional agenda).

29. The Subcommittee has recommended that special presentations to be made in conjunction with its session should be planned by Member States in the light of the relevance of the technical presentations to the Subcommittee's work and of their contribution to the Subcommittee's substantive consideration of items on the agenda.

Item 15. Other matters

(a) International Space Year

30. The General Assembly, in paragraph 21 of resolution 46/45, reiterated its recommendation that Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year, consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992 (see also paras. 2 and 14 above).

31. The Subcommittee will have before it the second edition of the guidebook on the participation of the United Nations system in ISY 1992, prepared by the Outer Space Affairs Division, which provides details on the activities to be undertaken by the United Nations in 1991-1992, in cooperation with Member States as well as governmental and non-governmental entities, in observance of International Space Year. The scope of the United Nations ISY activities presented in the guidebook focuses on three major areas: (i) management of the resources of the Earth and its environment; (ii) long-term education programmes; and (iii) public education. The Subcommittee will also have before it an update on United Nations ISY activities, contained in document A/AC.105/445/Add.6.

(b) Space and Earth environment

32. The General Assembly, in paragraph 23 of resolution 46/45, recommended that more attention be paid to all aspects related to the protection and the preservation of the outer space environment, especially those potentially affecting the Earth's environment.

33. The General Assembly, in paragraph 24 of the same resolution, also considered that it was essential that Member States pay more attention to the problem of collisions with space debris and other aspects of space debris, and called for the continuation of national research on this question, for the development of improved technology for the monitoring of space debris and for the compilation and dissemination of data on space debris, and that, to the extent possible, information thereon should be provided to the Subcommittee in order to allow it to follow this area more closely. (The Subcommittee had noted that this could be done through provision of working papers, interventions in the general debate and technical presentations by specialists from Member States and COSPAR and IAF (A/AC.105/483, para. 109)).

34. The General Assembly, in paragraph 25 of the same resolution, also requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States to provide information on their national research on space debris to the Subcommittee.

(c) Other reports

35. The Subcommittee will also have before it the following documents:

(i) Progress of space research 1990-1991: report submitted by COSPAR (A/AC.105/502);

(ii) Highlights in space technology and applications 1991: report submitted by IAF (A/AC.105/503).

36. Additional reports may be submitted to the Subcommittee as available.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 20 (A/46/20).

Annex

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF WORK*

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Monday, 24 February	Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda Item 2 - Statement by the Chairman International Space Year (ISY) a/	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 14 - Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year b/
Tuesday, 25 February	Item 3 - General exchange of views Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 c/	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources d/
Wednesday, 26 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 c/	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources d/
Thursday, 27 February	Item 4 - United Nations Programme on Space Applications Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 c/	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources d/
Friday, 28 February	Item 8 - Space transportation Systems Item 9 - Geostationary orbit	Item 7 - Nuclear power sources d/
Monday, 2 March	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 11 - Earth environment	Item 6 - Remote sensing Item 11 - Earth environment
Tuesday, 3 March	Item 10 - Life sciences Item 12 - Planetary exploration Item 13 - Astronomy	Item 10 - Life sciences Item 12 - Planetary exploration Item 13 - Astronomy
Wednesday, 4 March	Item 5 - UNISPACE 82 c/ Item 7 - Nuclear power sources d/	Item 15 - Other matters (including ISY-related activities)
Thursday, 5 March	Item 15 - Other matters (including ISY-related activities)	Item 16 - Report to the Committee
Friday, 6 March	Item 16 - Report to the Committee	Item 16 - Report to the Committee

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* The provisional schedule of work has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Subcommittee.

a/ In accordance with paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 46/45 of 9 December 1991, by which the Assembly recommended that in 1992 the Subcommittee dedicate at least one meeting of its regular session to ISY. (A programme will be issued in due course.)

b/ In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 46/45, a scientific symposium on the theme "Space technology and the protection of the Earth's environment: development of endogenous capabilities, in particular in the developing countries and in the context of International Space Year", sponsored by COSPAR and IAF, will be held on 24 February, at the end of the afternoon meeting of the Subcommittee. (A detailed programme for the symposium will be issued in due course.)

c/ The Working Group of the Whole, to be re-established under General Assembly resolution 46/45, paragraph 9 (see para. 12 of the present provisional agenda), will meet during the period allocated for agenda items 4 and 5. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 5 again on Wednesday, 4 March, to adopt the report of the Working Group.

d/ The Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space (see para. 18 of the present provisional agenda) will meet during the period allocated for agenda item 7. Arrangements will be made for informal meetings of the Working Group as required. The Subcommittee will take up agenda item 7 again on Wednesday, 4 March, to adopt the report of the Working Group.